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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1A

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION**INFORMATION REPORT**REPORT NO.

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COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR. 12 Sept. 1952

SUBJECT Radar on Soviet Merchant Ships

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PLACE
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1. Q. What class of Merchant Fleet ships are equipped with shipborne radar? Where are these ships located and what routes do they normally ply? The areas of the Black and Baltic Seas are of particular interest.
 - A. In the Caspian Sea none of the ships of the Merchant Fleet were equipped with radar. I cannot give any specific information on the ships in the Black and Baltic Seas.
2. Q. What are the capabilities of the known types of Soviet shipborne radar, particularly those types used by the Soviet Navy or Merchant Fleet vessels?
 - A. I only know the principle of radar and cannot give any information on the capabilities of Soviet radar.

CLASSIFICATION

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3. Q. What do you know or what comments can you make on any coordination or reporting procedures used between the Soviet Navy, Air Force, or Army and ships of the Merchant Fleet equipped with radar?
 - A. As of 1951, ships of the Merchant Fleet were not equipped with radar and therefore coordination and reporting procedures within the Armed Forces with Merchant Fleet vessels was not in effect. If such procedures had existed I would have been aware of them on account of my position in a petroleum shipping company. However, in the event of hostilities such a policy could be established.
4. Q. Can you comment on the probability of employing Soviet ship-borne radar in order to augment or extend the Soviet radar air warning coverage of air approaches to the Soviet Union?
 - A. In the event of hostilities it is indeed most probable that ship-borne radar would be employed to augment or extend the air warning coverage of the air approaches to the Soviet Union. I can add no further details nor offer any evidence that such a policy was in effect.